

The Mighty Mississippi, by Karen Gersonde



Long and mighty flowing north to south,
It ends in Louisiana...that's where it's the mouth.

A working river with ships and tugs,
And barges and boats that continuously chug.

It's colored brown with lots of silt,
But along its banks many cities were built.

Much cargo flows up and down the way,
As enormous barges are seen every day.

Old time paddle wheelers may still be seen,
Carrying visitors on boats that are all named, "Queen."

And the locking system is amazing to behold,
Locking in ships and then letting them go.

The mighty Mississippi and the Great Lakes
Are all great waters,
And with all they have to offer,
These destinations couldn't be hotter!



Photos by John F. Sullivan. *Waiting at the Levee* (top). The historic Julia Belle Swain at the levee in La Crosse. This boat was completely restored and is one of the few remaining steam-powered stern-wheelers in the country. *American Lotus Pool 7*. One of the largest native flowers in the North America growing along a side channel of the Mississippi River in lower Pool 7 with the distant bluffs of Minnesota in view.